

**APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTIONS 43 AND 47 OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2007/08 & 2008/09**

Applicant's Name: Connexions Staffordshire Ltd **Account Ref:** 101094070

Property Address: 84 High Green, Cannock

Registered Charity: Yes - 1121955

Occupation Date: 1 April 2002 **NEW APPLICATION**

Relief Claimed: Mandatory and Discretionary **Period:** 12/12/07-31/3/08
1/4/08 – 31/3/09

Use of Property: Offices

Main Objectives: To provide information, advice and guidance to all 13-19 year olds within the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire area – from work and learning to more personal matters such as relationships, health or housing.

Financial Situation: As at: 31 March 2007 **Surplus (Deficit)** (544,975.00) £
Reserves (2,856,891.00)*
**negative reserves after inclusion of pension liability of £4,477,000*

Previous Relief Granted: **Mandatory** - %
Discretionary - 50%

Rates Payable:	2007/08	2008/09
	£	£
Full charge	3,231.74	11,088.00
Less Mandatory Relief (80%)	<u>2,585.39</u>	<u>8,870.40</u>
Discretionary consideration	646.35	2,217.60
If 10% granted		
NNDR Pool (25%):	80.80	277.20
General Fund (75%):	<u>242.38</u>	<u>831.60</u>
Rates payable:	323.17	1,108.80

Supporting Information:

Connexions Staffordshire Ltd is a 'Non-Profit' making company set-up to provide information, advice and guidance services for the young people of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. The company is entirely public funded, principally through the DfES Grant in order to provide the Connexions Service to the county.

Access to the companies services are freely available to ALL 13-19 year olds (up to 24 years of age if having learning difficulties) under the Connexions contract to all those referred to them by other agencies, for example Jobcentres. In particular the company targets 'harder to help' clients from disadvantaged sections of the community. Clients with additional needs such as teenage mums are a particular focus.

Information, advice and guidance is provided to all clients including training in basic skills, CV writing, interview techniques to those that have need of it. Connexions Staffordshire work closely with Local Authorities to enhance and supplement their work; services are also provided under a statutory duty, which would otherwise fall on Authorities.

Staffordshire Connexions Ltd are members of the National Association of Connexions Partnerships (NACP) and exist by reason of statute – they are obliged to provide their services to all residents of the Staffordshire sub-region.

Comments:

Staffordshire Connexions Ltd have achieved registration as a charity with effect from 12 December 2007. The organisation was previously in receipt of 50% discretionary relief, however, due to their change of status they now qualify for 80% mandatory relief and now wish to be considered for additional top up discretionary relief - the recommendation in this report is for 10% discretionary relief which is in line with other similar organisations within this Authorities area.